

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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(54) AN IMPROVED TRAVEL CASE AND A METHOD OF MAKING SAME

(71) We, GILCHRIST & FISHER LIMITED, a British Company of Western Way, Exeter, Devon, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to an improved travel case and a method of making same.

Normally, travelling cases are virtually boxes with lids either fitting over or flush on to the main portion and such boxes are formed either wholly of, say, plywood and covered by an appropriate material or, to save weight, the top and bottom panels of plywood are discarded and the covering fabric acts both as a top and bottom as well as the outer skin. The plywood is therefore reduced, both in body and lid to a girdle. This girdle can be made of fibreboard or other malleable board to reduce weight and cost but the problems of its flexibility cause difficulties in accurate assembly.

According to the present invention it is proposed to introduce a frame of metal or other suitable rigid material into the piping which is normally provided around the bottom edge of the box-like body part of the case and also to introduce a second similar frame into the piping around the edge of the mouth of the box-like body part of the case. These metal frames replace the cord or normal filling in said piping.

With such a construction the box-like body part of the case is rigid in outline and the reinforcement of the girdle (which is introduced after the frames have been fitted) need only be a light-weight board serving purely to keep the girdle covering material extended and the two frames retained spaced apart in parallel planes.

Since however the metal frames when initially fitted into the piping would have to be on the inside of the case to enable the piping to be closed by stitching or otherwise securing together the flanges of the piping at one side thereof, the frame, could not, apparently, be

inserted in the piping in the place of cord since this implies the case being made inside out as hereinafter explained with reference to Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings and it would subsequently seem impossible to turn one metal rectangular frame through a similar sized rectangular frame.

According to the present invention, there is provided a method of constructing a travel case having a stiff girdle or intermediate annular wall portion covered with flexible material and flexible material end face walls constituting a bottom wall and a lid, which consists in inserting frames of metal or other suitable rigid material into longitudinally slit and flanged piping for surrounding respectively the edges of the bottom wall and the mouth of the case prior to fitting a stiffening girdle to the flexible girdle covering material, and after the slit piping has been closed by securing together the flanges of the piping and securing same to the respective edges of the inside-out flexible material forming the bottom wall and flexible girdle covering material and, if desired, binding same, inserting one of the frames enclosed in its piping through the other frame and its enclosing piping to bring the flexible material of the case right side out and thereafter fitting the stiffening girdle around the inside of the girdle covering material, and then fitting the resulting assembled body part with a lid. The case can be manipulated in the manner set forth above due to the flexibility of the covering material and the absence of the stiffening girdle which need only be of light-weight material and which is fitted afterwards to the inside of the case. This manipulation is additionally rendered more easy due to the fact that the piping is free to turn about the axis of the metal or other rigid material of the frame.

To enable the invention to be clearly understood the improved case and the method of making same will now be described with reference to the diagrammatic drawings accompanying our Provisional Specification where-

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Figure 1 is a cross section illustrating how the metal frames are inserted into the piping.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of an assembled case having a flush fitting lid

5 Figure 3 is a view showing the case turned right side out, and

Figure 4 is a view of a case having a lid fitted to the body part of the case by a sliding clasp fastener.

10 Referring firstly to Figure 1 and 3 of the drawings, the reference numeral 1 indicates the inside out flexible covering material of the bottom or one end face of the case and the flexible covering material of the girdle is indicated at 2. The piping surrounding the edge of the bottom of the case is indicated at 3 and that surrounding the open mouth of the case is indicated at 4. The lid is omitted from Figure 1.

20 Each of the pipings 3 and 4 encloses a metal frame 5 of steel or other suitable metal or material of circular cross section which is inserted into the pipings prior to the sewing together of the flanges 3a and 4a respectively of said pipings, said flanges when secured together also being sewn to the marginal edges of the flexible material of the parts 1 and 2 of the box-like body part of the case constituting the bottom and an unstiffened girdle 2 of the case.

30 As previously explained, the metal frames 5 are provided inside the piping in place of the cord or normal filling.

To turn the case or body of covering material right side out in order to bring the piping 3 and 4 on to the outside and to bring the seams (i.e. the sewn together flanges 3a, 4a etc. of the piping) to the inside of the case as indicated in Figure 3, the frame 5 inside the piping 3 has to be passed through the frame 5 inside the piping 4.

40 This can be achieved due to the fact that the pipings 3 and 4 are free to move around the axis of the members of the frames 5 as the case is being turned right side out and also due to the fact that sufficient movement of the frames 5 is possible due to the flexibility of the covering material 2 of the gusset which allows one frame to be inserted in and manipulated through the other frame out of parallelism so that the greater dimension of the diagonal allows for one frame 5 to be passed through the other.

55 The lid 6 or other end face of the case as shown in Figure 2 may be hinged to the main body part of the case so as to be flush therewith or, as shown in figure 4, the lid 6 may be closed against the mouth of the body part of the case by sliding clasp fastener 7. In the arrangement illustrated in Figure 2 the lid 6 may be fitted with a metal frame in a manner similar to that already described in connection with the body part. In the arrangement illus-

trated in Figure 4 the lid can be a conventional "soft" lid.

65 After the case or body of covering material has been assembled and turned right side out a stiffening girdle or intermediate annular wall 9 (Figure 3) is fitted around the inside of the covering material 2 of the girdle and secured therein by any suitable means as rivets. The said seams are bound by a binding 8 also indicated in Figure 3.

70 A further advantage of the construction provided by this invention is that as usually made the sliding clasp fastener 7 indicated in Figure 4 would normally lie between the two steel frames 5 in the gusset of the main body part of the case and the whole weight of the case and contents would be taken by the fastener 7 and its tapes because no fibre frame would normally remain flat and the strain on the fastener endeavours to separate the teeth and so damage the fastener. With such an arrangement the frames would establish outline without adding to the strength. With the arrangement illustrated by the drawings however the frame work can be made to constitute a carrier by bridging the two frames so that the fastener 7 is quite relaxed and under no tension whatsoever.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A method of constructing a travel case having a stiff girdle or intermediate annular wall portion covered with flexible material and flexible material end face walls constituting a bottom wall and a lid, which consists in inserting frames of metal or other suitable rigid material into longitudinally slit and flanged piping for surrounding respectively the edges of the bottom wall and the mouth of the case prior to fitting a stiffening girdle to the flexible girdle covering material, and after the slit piping has been closed by securing together the flanges of the piping and securing same to the respective edges of the inside-out flexible material forming the bottom wall and flexible girdle covering material and, if desired, binding same, inseting one of the frames enclosed in its piping through the other frame and its enclosing piping to bring the flexible material of the case right side out and thereafter fitting the stiffening girdle around the inside of the girdle covering material, and then fitting the resulting assembled body part with a lid.

2. A method of constructing a travel case having a stiff girdle or intermediate annular wall portion covered with flexible material and flexible material end face walls constituting a bottom wall and a lid, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated by the drawings accompanying our Provisional Specification.

3. A travel case constructed in accordance with the method claimed in Claims 1 or 2.

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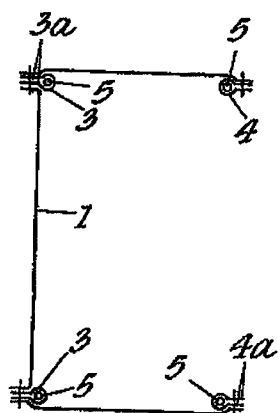


Fig. 1.

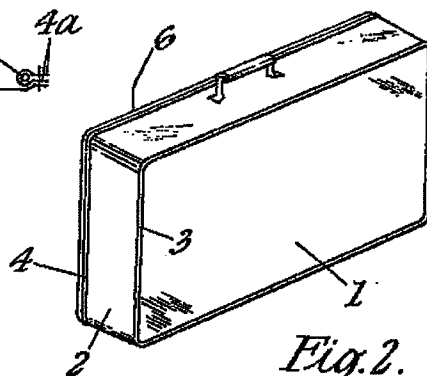


Fig. 2.

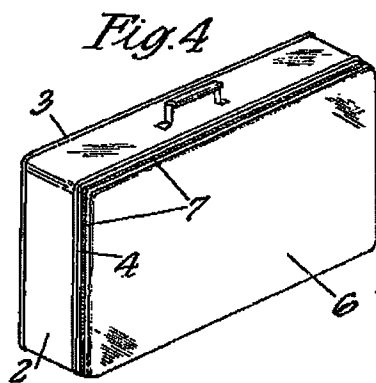


Fig. 4

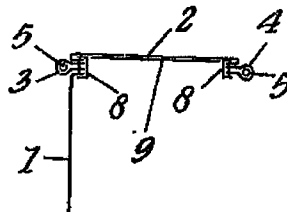


Fig. 3.